

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2188

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USUN NEW YORK 037

AMCONSUL CURACAO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0488

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, NL, NS

SUBJ: STATUS REPORT ON SURINAM SECURITY

REF : A) THE HAGUE 4709; B) PARAMARIBO 0480

1. DUTCH CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE (REFTEL A), WHILE NOT MISPLACED, COULD GIVE EXAGGERATED IMPRESSION OF CURRENT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN PARAMARIBO.

2. MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE SOURCES TELL ME THAT, EXCEPT FOR ACTIONS OF GROUP OF ABOUT FORTY PNR/NPS SUPPORTERS, LARGELY MARKET WOMEN AND IDLE YOUTHS, WHICH HAS BROKEN FEW WINDOWS, INVADDED JOURNALIST'S OFFICE AND BOOED OPPOSITION PRINCIPALS, THERE HAS BEEN PRACTICALLY NO VIOLENCE UP TO NOW. NO INCIDENT INVOLVING FOREIGN NATIONALS OR PROPERTY HAVE BEEN REPORTED. LOOKING AHEAD FEW WEEKS, SOURCES SAY THAT ISOLATED VIOLENCE CANNOT BE RULED OUT, BUT THEY FORESEE NO LARGE-SCALE OUTBREAKS.

3. HOWEVER, SOURCES SHARE CONCERN, REPORTED REFTEL (B), THAT INDEFINITE CONTINUATION OF POLITICAL IMPASSE COULD INCREASE SUSPENSE AND TENSION TO DANGER POINT. DUTCH SOURCES SEEMED TO

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TAKE MORE SOMBER VIEW OF FUTURE POSSIBILITIES THAN THEIR

SURINAM COLLEAGES, INCLUDING HEAD OF CID AFD COMMANDER-DESIGNATE OF SMO, BUT ALL AGREED THAT SITUATION NEEDED WATCHING.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW DUTCH CONCERNS, THIS SEEMS GOOD MOMENT FOR GON TO MAKE CLEAR TO BOTH NPK AND VHP THAT WAR OF NERVES BEING WAGED BY SURINAM POLITICIANS IS IN NO ONE'S LONG-TERM INTERESTS AND HAS REACHED POINT WHERE FURTHER DELAY IN REACHING COMPROMISE COULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS.

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